# Discussant: 2020 Census Quality Metrics

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# Accomplishments in Quality Metrics

- Census faced touch headwinds but managed to get the Census 2020 done!

- Great job with the huge response rates that were done online with success!

- Releasing more metrics than ever and sooner than typically done

- Developing processes and procedures to be proactive rather than reactive

- More transparency on Census data quality (e.g., webpage)

- Engaging with external experts like NAS & ASA to improve and innovate on the Census quality metrics

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# Broaden potential experts

- To help improve future Censuses and other Bureau programs that are connected to the community especially with the diversity of the country

- Other external experts to partner with such as Population Association of America (PAA)

- Civil rights organizations who have a different perspectives on key subgroups

- Universities, including HBCUs and MSIs

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# Broaden potential experts cont'd

- Note that the ASA task force reported (slide #6) *"no evidence…and "no major anomalies that would indicate census numbers are not fit for use for purposes of apportionment*" but

- point #1: Indicators released to date by the bureau do not permit a thorough assessment of the 2020 Census data quality.

- point #4: The task force's ability to more thoroughly evaluate the quality, accuracy, and coverage of the 2020 Census has been hampered by limits on available information and research.

- Need more clarity about the larger goal for the longer-term assessment (slide 6)? What are the key questions? How can these additional community experts help ensure data quality?

- Will the Committee on National Statistics also look at the Post Enumeration Survey especially when dependent on memory, mobility, etc.?

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# Operational metrics

- Will you be providing operational metrics on the PES since it won't be released until first quarter of 2022?

- Will you release operational metrics and what will they consist of and when can those be expected?

- How appropriate is it to use 2010 as comparison especially with the undercount of kids and communities of color, especially with 2020 methods -- internet use and administrative data?

- How can we get more operational quality metrics (e.g., self-response, NRFU) at the sub-state level (e.g., census tract, rural, tribal communities) since a lot of variations within state ?

- Who were the unresolved cases by age, race and ethnicity and why is it unresolved (slide #18)? What is the plan, if any about how to resolve these cases?

- What quality metrics are used to ascertain how good the Census counted people **within** a household (as opposed to households)?

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# NRFU

- How much of NRFU is composed of communities of color, especially Black and Hispanic populations (slide #18)? What is meant by high-quality administrative data and how are we sure these are of high quality?

- Are there differences by race, ethnicity, geography, and age of children for NRFU – interview vs. proxy vs. administrative?

- Is there more about the quality of data for group quarters and how people in these spaces were counted (e.g., colleges, prisons) (slide #19)?

- Many states such as Louisiana, MA have unresolved housing unit addresses, then what does it mean

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# Response rates

- How are you working with different states and within states to address not just the increase in self-responses but the overall self-response esp. states below 60% which seem to be in the south? Some of these same states had low online self-responses (e.g., Mississippi, Arkansas, West Virginia).

- Is there more information about the item nonresponse which is high for race and age data, especially for proxy (slide #29)? How does proxy for NRFU differ by race/ethnicity, geography?

- Unclear about item nonresponse being higher in 2010 than 2020 based on self-response vs. NRFU (slides #30 & #32)? Why would item rates for NRFU households be worse in 2020 than 2010?

- Nonresponse for race much higher in 2020 for NRFU households (slide #33). Why?

- How will Census address the item nonresponse rates for group quarters which has implications for young people and Black communities (slides #29 and 34); it seems to have gotten worse?

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# Summary

- Is it possible to expand quality metrics experts to include community-centered stakeholders?

- Can we get more quality metrics at the sub-state since a lot of variations within state?

- What quality metrics are used to confirm Census is counting people within households rather than households?

- Are there more data to examine resolutions of NRFU, item nonresponse rates, especially for children and Black and Hispanic communities, as well as rural and tribal communities?

- Can we get more detail on the group quarters and how they are counted and to address item nonresponse?

- Invite NAC members to give feedback or additional thoughts on additional needs on item nonresponse rates results planned (slide #38)

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